HANDS AND HELP

"HOW did you lose your hand?"

"I lost it working with an engine. I was reaching in for a loose bolt when it got caught and drawn into the cogs. I have another good hand left, though, and I get along pretty well with it. One hand will do pretty good work for a man if he knows how to use it."

"Help! Help! A man is overboard and drowning!"

An officer on deck seizes a life preserver and throws it to the sinking man. It reaches him and holds him up until a boat is lowered, and the man is brought back safe on board.

The telephone rings in a farmhouse. A neighbor's voice is recognized as he asks, "Can you come over to-morrow and help fill my silo?" The farmer answers, "No, I can't come myself, but I'll send my hand. He will do as much as I could."

The Bible teaches that each part of the body, filling well the place that it is meant to fill, is honorable in that service, whether it be a hand or an eye. But the Bible teaches that it is honorable to do well the highest work that we have the ability to do, and dishonorable to continue to be merely a hand when we might be a whole man doing a strong man's work.

The service of a life preserver is honorable in its place, but it would be shameful to remain only a deck hand, a helper, even a life preserver, which hangs on a hook for months and then performs its service of helping to save one life, if you have it in you to be the captain of a great ship and bring her across the sea full of ten thousand soldiers with their equipment, to fight for the freedom of the world.

It is not a disgrace to do any lowly work if you do it well, but it is wrong to continue at lowly work that a thousand others might do almost as well as you when you have the ability and the opportunity for training yourself to difficult and exacting work of great responsibility that not one person in a thousand could ever learn to do well.

Abraham Lincoln was, perhaps, the best rail-splitter in the State of Illinois, and he was proud of the fact that he could split a good rail; but the world could not have measured its loss if Lincoln had been satisfied to split rails always when God had given him the greatness of soul to save a nation in the hour of its peril.

It is honorable to be a hand or a helper if that is what God made you to be. But it is wrong not to be a mind or a leader of men if God has put the possibility of such within you.

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